

**SECRET****OC RECORD COPY**

9 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Communications

SUBJECT : Proposed Secure Area or Vault Area for Building  
[REDACTED]

1. Following an inspection of [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] the Chief, Special Intelligence Security Staff [REDACTED] memorandum dated 21 February 1968 that the SI retention area in [REDACTED] did not fully meet the requirements for open shelf storage of SI materials in the Special Support Center. Although certain security improvements have been made both prior to and since February 1968, it has been apparent for some time that the problem will not be fully resolved until a new secure area (or vault area) is built. Basic to the problem is the fact that the Special Support Center deals with SI material which, due to size and shape, cannot be stored in any available type of safe container. The difference between a secure area and a vault area is one of degree, with the true vault requiring thicker walls, a heavier steel door, etc.

2. [REDACTED] to proceed with construction of a secure area and we have received the necessary technical approvals from the Office of Security and the Special Intelligence Security Staff. The Office of Logistics has reviewed the criteria from the construction feasibility standpoint and has delegated the execution of the project to our Post Engineer. The secure area as now envisaged would cost about \$7,500 and somewhat less if we do not have to purchase a completely new alarm system. Our Engineering Division recommends against constructing a true vault area within the building because there are certain weight load factors and other technical considerations which would complicate the job which, incidentally, must be done with [REDACTED] personnel for security reasons. A secure area will meet the requirements imposed by the Office of Security for storing SI material, but would reduce the available work space by about 550 square feet in a building which is already overcrowded.

3. Looking at the problem from a longer range point of view, however, leads us to believe that a true vault area constructed outside of [REDACTED] and connected to it by a passageway, might be a worthwhile investment. The Chief, Special Programs Division, OC, foresees the eventual need for an area in which TK material will be stored.

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The future transfer of certain activities from the Headquarters area to [REDACTED] also engender the need for a vault which would meet the Agency's maximum protection standards. We are now constructing a vault area immediately adjacent to [REDACTED] for the use of the SEO (Field) Group and we could capitalize on this experience by erecting something similar adjacent to [REDACTED]. At this time we have developed neither an accurate cost estimate nor specifications, but preliminary calculations indicate that the cost would be \$25,000-30,000 for a two story vault.

4. We are of the opinion that future need for a vault area is bound to appear. Thinking about a vault that would accommodate additional SI or other sensitive material for which precise needs cannot yet be defined, leads us to conclude that an outside vault is probably the best course of action even though the total cost will be three or four times greater than for a secure area within the building. At this point in time we could not hope to do an outside vault project in-house with FY 1969 funds. Necessary funds could, however, be given during June to the [REDACTED] to complete an A & E Study and actual construction during the forthcoming fiscal year. We urge immediate consideration be given to allocating \$30,000 for this work out of year-end funds which may still be available. For the A & E Study alone, would require about \$2500.

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